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A new species of *Villiersicometes* Santos-Silva, 2003
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Disteniinae)

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A new species of *Villiersicometes* Santos-Silva, 2003
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Abstract. *Villiersicometes absalom* **sp. nov.**, a new species of *Villiersicometes* Santos-Silva, 2003 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Disteniinae) is described from French Guiana. The species is illustrated and a key to the species of the genus is provided.

Keywords. French Guiana; New species; Taxonomy.

Introduction

Villiers (1957) described *Microcometes* to accommodate *M. bijubatus* Gounelle, 1911, *M. wagneri* Gounelle, 1911 and *M. lineatus* Villiers, 1957. Santos-Silva (2003) noted that *Microcometes* Villiers, 1957 was a junior homonym of *Microcometes* Cienkowski, 1875 (Protozoa) and established *Villiersicometes* as a new name for *Microcometes* Villiers.

Santos-Silva and Martins (2010) reviewed *Villiersicometes* and commented that all differences pointed out for the three species (*C. wagneri*, *C. bijubatus* and *C. lineatus*) are specific and/or sexual variations, not associated with any locality. However, they chose to keep the three species as valid until the types could be examined *in loco*. We examined photo of a paratype of *C. lineatus*, and more recently a specimen from Para ba (Brazil). This latter suggests that *C. lineatus* is a distinct species.

This new species differs considerably from others in the genus, making it easily recognizable.

The collection acronyms used in the text are as follows:

MNHN — Mus um National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France

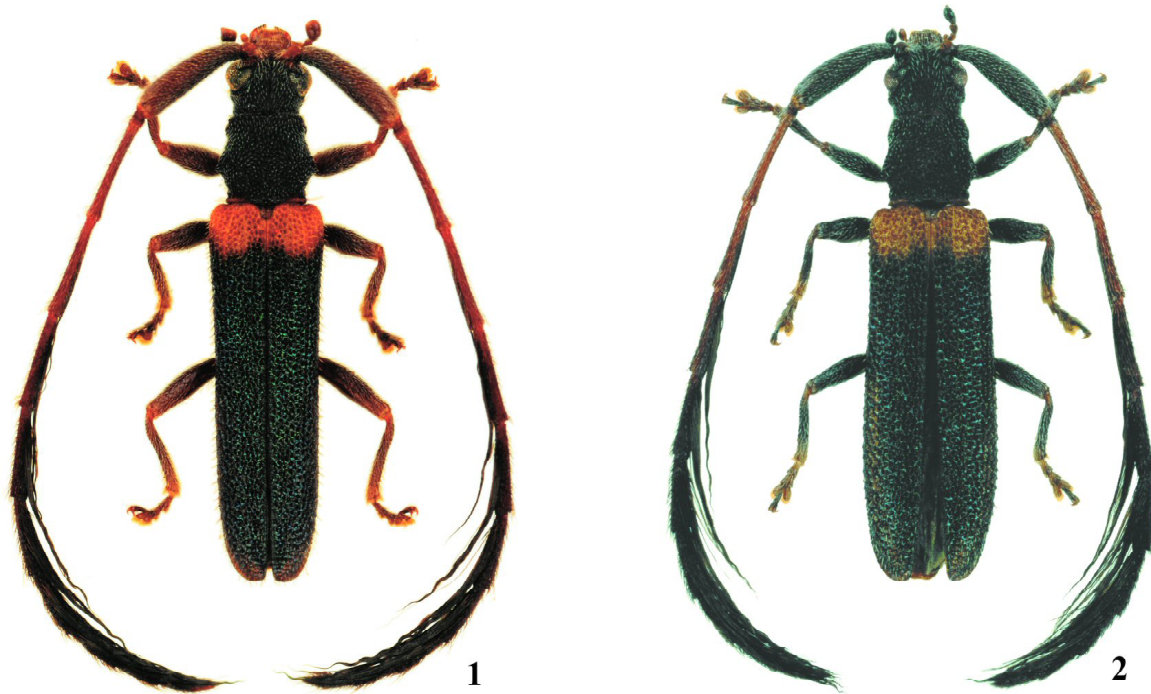
MZSP — Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de S o Paulo, S o Paulo, Brazil

***Villiersicometes absalom* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1, 2)

Diagnosis. *Villiersicometes absalom* **sp. nov.** differs from other species in the genus by: larger size (length can surpass 6 mm); elytral base orangish, well delimited, distinctly contrasting with the remaining color. Other species in the genus are smaller (length always less than 6 mm), the elytra do not have an orangish area at base (in *V. lineatus* Villiers, 1957 the lighter area of the elytra is not restricted to the base and distinctly surpasses the middle).

Etymology. In the Bible, Absalom, David's handsome son, was killed by Joab who found him caught by the branches of a tree, due to his very long hair. It is considered a noun in apposition.



Figures 1-2. *Villiersicometes absalom* sp. nov., dorsal habitus. 1) Holotype male. 2) Paratype female.

Description. Male (Fig. 1). Integument dark-brown; parts of mouthparts, pedicel and antennomeres III-V or III-IV brown; part of coxae and trochanters lighter brown; elytral base orangish (including humeri and scutellum); dark portions of elytra with violaceous reflections, ascending along the suture towards the scutellum, but not reaching it, and along the epipleuron up to base of humerus.

Upper ocular lobes reaching the level of the apex of antennal tubercles; distance between upper ocular lobes equal to 1.3 times largest width of the scape. Last segment of maxillary palps strongly thickened, truncate at apex. Antennae 1.5 times longer than body; scape 1.1 times longer than antennomere III, slightly curved at inner base, not distinctly narrowed at basal third.

Prothorax longitudinal; lateral tubercles small, acute, projected and placed before middle. Pronotum with short setae, decumbent, whitish and moderately dense. Elytra very coarsely confluent punctate throughout; each elytron with two distinct carinae, starting at base: the innermost only surpassing the middle of the elytron; the outermost reaching the apical third to fourth; setae rather short, bristling, aligned in streaks on basal two-thirds; elytral apex truncate. Prosternal process distinctly narrowed towards apex; apex slightly rounded; setae long, relatively abundant. Metasternum with violaceous reflections; punctation coarse, shallow, more dense towards metepisterna and finer and sparser towards central sulcus; setae long, decumbent. Ventriles with violet reflections; punctation moderately coarse (in parts finer), shallow and more dense laterally; setae long, not notably dense.

Female (Fig. 2). Very similar to the male. Differing by the shape of last segment of maxillary palps, distinctly narrower and fusiform.

Dimensions in mm (male/female). Total length, 5.4-6.5/6.4; prothorax: central length, 0.9-1.0/1.0; width between apex of lateral tubercles, 1.0-1.2/1.1; anterior width, 0.8-0.9/0.9; posterior width, 0.8-0.9/0.9; humeral width, 1.1-1.2/1.3; elytral length, 3.7-4.5/4.3.

Type material. Holotype male, from FRENCH GUIANA: Route de Kaw (pk 46; light trapping), 28.VIII.1986, G. Tavakilian coll. (*ex* collection IRD # 984 in MNHN). Paratypes, 1 male and 1 female, both from French Guiana, as follows: Male !! Haute Courcibo (DZ EDF; light trapping), 16.VII.1990, J.-M. Baloup coll. (MZSP); Female - Piste de Bélizon (Pk 24; light trapping), 06.VIII.1991, A. Docquin & Sénécaux coll. (MNHN).

Key to the species of *Villiersicometes*

1. At least the apical two-thirds of elytra completely dark metallic blue. French Guiana ***V. absalom* sp. nov.**
 — Apical two-thirds of elytra brownish or greenish, never with metallic color **2**
- 2(1). Elytra with brownish and distinct stripe on basal two-thirds of sutural region. Brazil (Bahia, Espírito Santo) ***V. lineatus* (Villiers, 1958)**
 — Elytra without brownish stripe on basal two-thirds of sutural region **3**
- 3(2). Slender body; distance between elytral setae in the striae greater than their length. Brazil (Pernambuco, Espírito Santo?, Rio Grande do Sul?) ***V. bijubatus* (Gounelle, 1911)**
 — Robust body; distance between elytral setae in the striae equal or shorter than their length. Brazil (Bahia, Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, São Paulo, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul), Argentina (Misiones) ***V. wagneri* (Gounelle, 1911)**

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